

things that are happening right now at Louisiana State University at Eunice. This two-year college located in Acadia Parish, a part of my district, provides students with the educational tools they need to either enter the workforce or continue their studies at a four-year university.

With 94 professors on hand, and nearly all of them full-time staff, LSUE has registered more than 3,000 students for the 2004 Spring semester. This number marks an all-time high for the school.

LSU at Eunice is excelling outside the classroom as well. The school has recently initiated a wellness program entitled "Bonne Sante!" Students and staff will benefit from this exciting program which will promote healthy living through a variety of sources including a monthly magazine, a free web service, a fitness/health film series and a community of fitness activity groups. "Bonne Sante!" promises to make LSUE a healthier and happier campus.

Staff at LSUE has also garnered some impressive accolades. The college's Chancellor, Dr. William J. Nunez, III, was recently selected to serve as chairman of the Eunice Community Medical Center Board of Directors for the current calendar year. In addition, Ms. Theresa Darbonne, a member of the SIFE@LSUE National Team recently returned from Honduras where she visited the medical clinic that SIFE@LSUE helped establish three years ago. SIFE is a global, not-for-profit organization that works to improve living standards throughout the world by teaching the values of market economics.

Exciting things are happening at LSUE. Its students and faculty should be proud to know that their school is making unprecedented strides and continues to provide an excellent education in Southwest Louisiana.

A BIRTHDAY SALUTE TO THE TOWN OF LINCOLNVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in recognition of a very special Town in my district called Lincolnvile, South Carolina. In 1867 seven black men led by Bishop Richard Harvey Cain were dissatisfied with the way they were being treated in Charles Town, which is now Charleston, South Carolina. They set out to locate land for sale by the South Carolina Railroad Company. They found a location called "Pump Pond" where the local train stopped to get water and wood and later water and coal. They purchased 620 acres from the South Carolina Railroad Company and established the town on February 14, 1889. They were granted a state charter on December 14, 1889. The people of this great town named it Lincolnvile in honor of Republican President Abraham Lincoln who freed the slaves.

On February 14, 2004, the Town of Lincolnvile will be 115 years old. Since the

town was founded during Black History Month, on February 28, 2004, there will be a great Jubilee Celebration with visual arts, arts and crafts, music, dance, theatrical presentations and great food. This wonderful celebration will be in remembrance of Lincolnvile's founding fathers while displaying the spirit of its diversity throughout the community.

Happy Birthday to the people of the great Town of Lincolnvile, South Carolina.

HEART DISEASE AWARENESS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, heart disease is the leading cause of death for all Americans. According to the American Heart Association, nearly 500,000 women die of cardiovascular disease each year. For women, heart disease is responsible for more deaths than the next seven causes of death combined, including all forms of cancer. And shockingly, only 8 percent of women think that heart disease is a major personal concern.

These statistics are a sign that the message is not getting out. I rise today, in the middle of American Heart Month, to call attention to heart health and to encourage women to learn about the signs and causes of cardiovascular disease.

This past Friday, February 6, 2004, the American Heart Association sponsored "Go Red for Women" day. This initiative, encouraging individuals to wear red to increase awareness of heart disease, is an important step in making sure women take back control of their personal health. Both men and women must educate themselves on the warning signs of heart attack, stroke, and cardiac arrest. Women in particular must know the risk factors that they can control, including diabetes, high blood pressure, tobacco use, cholesterol, physical inactivity, and obesity because one in ten American women aged 45 to 64 and one in four American women aged 64 or older has some form of heart disease.

Not only can well informed women and mothers improve their own health, but as the family gatekeeper, mothers can also help put children on the path to a lifetime of good heart health. We know childhood obesity and diabetes are pandemic in our society, but there are things we can do to stop the growing trend of children exhibiting heart disease risk-factors at such an early age. We all must work to ensure that our families are eating healthy, well-balanced meals and we must make sure that our families are getting enough physical activity. These simple but important efforts will mean a great deal to the future health of our family members and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me in encouraging all Americans to contact the American Heart Association either through their Website or over the phone to find out the information that can save their lives. I hope my colleagues in the House will join me in this fight against heart disease, our Nation's leading killer.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL AMATO MATTY SEMENZA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Major General Amato Matty Semenza, a dedicated and determined community leader who passed away suddenly on Sunday, February 1, 2004 at his home. Friends, family and community members will gather on Friday, February 13 at 11 a.m. at St. Edward's the Confessor Church in Clifton Park to honor his memory.

General Semenza was appointed commanding general of the New York State Guard by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller on July 20, 1973, after serving as deputy commanding general. He served as commander until 1987. The General served the United States with distinction during his military career.

The numerous decorations, citations and commendations bestowed upon him, speak volume about the character of General Semenza. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Unit Citation, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, the World War II Victory and Occupation Medals, the New York State Conspicuous Medal, the NYG Commendation Medal, the NYS Long and Faithful Service Decoration for 25 years of military service and the New York Guard Medal. General Semenza also served as the president of the State Defense Force Association of the United States.

General Semenza earned his Bachelor of Science degree and master's degree in education from Fordham University. He began his teaching career in 1946 and 2 years later joined the faculty of Fordham College, where he met his wife, Renata Gouthier.

In 1955, General Semenza began his work with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. He served as diocesan superintendent of schools, director of the Diocesan Development and Stewardship Office and executive director of the National Catholic Stewardship Council Inc. He was appointed to the New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents, chief administrator of the National Catholic Education Association and the American Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Beyond General Semenza's ceaseless civic work, he managed to be a loving and involved husband, father, and grandfather. To be well-known as not only a giving and determined individual, but also as a devoted family man, is a remarkable honor. I am sure that his family is very proud of the wonderful life he led. General Semenza was a wonderful individual who showed us the beauty and power of dedication, leadership, and wisdom. He was truly an inspiration to all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Major General Amato Matty Semenza.

FEDERAL WAR ON DRUGS THREATENS THE EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PAIN

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the publicity surrounding popular radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh's legal troubles relating to his use of the pain killer OxyContin will hopefully focus public attention on how the federal War on Drugs threatens the effective treatment of chronic pain. Prosecutors have seized Mr. Limbaugh's medical records in connection with an investigation into charges that Mr. Limbaugh violated federal drug laws. The fact that Mr. Limbaugh is a high profile, and often controversial, conservative media personality has given rise to speculation that the prosecution is politically motivated. Adding to this suspicion is the fact that individual pain patients are rarely prosecuted in this type of case.

In cases where patients are not high profile celebrities like Mr. Limbaugh, it is a pain management physician who bears the brunt of overzealous prosecutors. Faced with the failure of the War on Drugs to eliminate drug cartels and kingpins, prosecutors and police have turned their attention to pain management doctors, using federal statutes designed for the prosecution of drug kingpins to prosecute physicians for prescribing pain medicine.

Many of the cases brought against physicians are rooted in the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)'s failure to consider current medical standards regarding the use of opioids, including OxyContin, in formulating policy. Opioids are the pharmaceuticals considered most effective in relieving chronic pain. Federal law classifies most opioids as Schedule II drugs, the same classification given to cocaine and heroin, despite a growing body of opinion among the medical community that opioids should not be classified with these substances.

Furthering the problem is that patients often must consume very large amounts of opioids to obtain long-term relief. Some prescriptions may be for hundreds of pills and last only a month. A prescription this large may appear suspicious. But, according to many pain management specialists, it is medically necessary, in many cases, to prescribe such a large number of pills to effectively treat chronic pain. However, zealous prosecutors show no interest in learning the basic facts of pain management.

This harassment by law enforcement has forced some doctors to close their practices, while others have stopped prescribing opioids—even though opioids are the only way some of their patients can obtain pain relief. The current attitude toward pain physicians is exemplified by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gene Rossi's statement that "our office will try our best to root out [certain doctors] like the Taliban."

Prosecutors show no concern for how their actions will affect patients who need large amounts of opioids to control their chronic pain. For example, the prosecutor in the case of Dr. Cecil Knox of Roanoke, Virginia told all of Dr. Knox's patients to seek help in federal clinics even though none of the federal clinics would prescribe effective pain medicine.

Doctors are even being punished for the misdeeds of their patients. For example, Dr. James Graves was sentenced to more than 60 years for manslaughter because several of his patients overdosed on various combinations of pain medications and other drugs, including illegal street drugs. As a physician with over thirty years experience in private practice, I find it outrageous that a physician would be held criminally liable for a patient's misuse of medicine.

The American Association of Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), one of the nation's leading defenders of private medical practice and medical liberty, has recently advised doctors to avoid prescribing opioids because, according to AAPS, "drug agents set medical standards." I would hope that my colleagues would agree that doctors, not federal agents, should determine medical standards.

By waging this war on pain physicians, the government is condemning patients to either live with excruciating chronic pain or seek opioids from other, less reliable, sources—such as street drug dealers. Of course, opioids bought on the street will likely pose a greater risk of damaging a patient's health than will opioids obtained from a physician.

Finally, as the Limbaugh case reveals, the prosecution of pain management physicians destroys the medical privacy of all chronic pain patients. Under the guise of prosecuting the drug war, law enforcement officials can rummage through patients' personal medical records and, as may be the case with Mr. Limbaugh, use information uncovered to settle personal or political scores. I am pleased that AAPS, along with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), has joined the effort to protect Mr. Limbaugh's medical records.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should take action to rein in overzealous prosecutors and law enforcement officials and stop the harassment of legitimate pain management physicians, who are acting in good faith in prescribing opioids for relief from chronic pain. Doctors should not be prosecuted for doing what, in their best medical judgment, is in their patients' best interest. Doctors should also not be prosecuted for the misdeeds of their patients.

Finally, I wish to express my hope that Mr. Limbaugh's case will encourage his many fans and supporters to consider how their support for the federal War on Drugs is inconsistent with their support of individual liberty and Constitutional government.

RECOGNIZING LUPUS INTERNATIONAL

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lupus International for their dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life for individuals living with lupus.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that afflicts 2.8 million people in the United States. The disease affects more people than AIDS, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, sickle cell anemia, and cystic fibrosis combined, yet many people have never heard of the disease. There is no known cure for lupus and there are few treatments specific to the disease.

Founded in 1983, Lupus International is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising public awareness, patient education, and supporting lupus research. For over 20 years, Lupus International has played a vital role in the battle against this destructive disease. I commend Lupus International for their service to millions of Americans suffering from lupus.

Mr. Speaker, by supporting such private efforts as Lupus International, we pay tribute to the victims suffering from this disease. We also honor those whose efforts will one day eradicate lupus as a life-threatening disease.

CONGRATULATING THE CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate The Carnegie Science Center, one of four Carnegie Museums in Pittsburgh, for being named one of the three recipients of the 2003 National Awards for Museum Service, the country's highest honor for extraordinary community service provided by a museum. The Carnegie Museums empowers the residents of Western Pennsylvania with knowledge in the fields of science and technology.

The team at The Carnegie Science Center is truly committed to their surrounding communities. On January 22, 2004 it was honored in The East Room of The White House by First Lady Laura Bush for their dedication. Those present at the ceremony to receive the award were: Mareena Woodbury-Moore, a ninth grade student at Schenley High School in Pittsburgh and also a standout participant in Mission Discovery—Carnegie Science Center's outreach program. Mareena was joined by Joanna E. Haas, director of The Carnegie Science Center, and Howard J. Bruschi, Chairman of the Carnegie Science Center board of directors.

Since 1994, The Carnegie Science Center has run neighborhood programs that educate local residents, of all ages, about the advantages of technology. Their hard work and dedication has made the city of Pittsburgh a better place.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating the efforts of The Carnegie Science Center to improve the quality of life in the City of Pittsburgh. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to recognize the leadership of The Carnegie Science Center.

RECOGNIZING LEON G. KERRY, CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION COMMISSIONER, ON HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN THE PROMOTION OF COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Leon G. Kerry, Commissioner of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic